THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Questions do not arise.

Use of Pesticides and Insecticides in Farming

3645. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticides and other insecticides are freely used in vegetable farming;

(b) whether human beings and animals consuming such vegetables face grave health hazards;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to eliminate use of pesticides in vegetable farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Pesticides are being used on need basis by farmers in vegetable farming. No grave health hazards to human beings and animals have been reported on account of this usage.

(d) To reduce the use of chemical pesticides for plant protection, Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres across the country to, *inter-alia,* impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field School (FFSs.) Government has, so far organized 9111 Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) and 2,75,056 farmers in IPM techniques. IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture/ICAR Institutions/State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on *www.dacent.nic.in/ppin* for use by extension functionaries and farmers.